- Delhi Police provides assistance to the Anti-Beggary Squads of the Social Welfare Department of the Government of NCT of Delhi for which nodal officers have been appointed in each District of Delhi Police.
- Delhi Police also conducts drive to arrest persons engaged in begging and takes action against alms givers at regular intervals.
- Several persons engaged in begging have been removed by the local traffic police from the traffic-light intersections, temples, places of tourist interest and other places.
- Government has requested Management Committees of important religious institutions to motivate worshipers not to give money/alms to persons engaged in begging.
- Government has issued advertisements from time-to-time to generate change in behaviour among the public on beggary.

Debt Bondage Labour

*379. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the practice of "debt bondage" prevailing in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the State-wise and category-wise details, including number of such workers in various States as on date;

(c) whether International Labour Organization (ILO) Report released during May, 2009 narrates forced labour prevailing in the country;

(d) if so, the details of action taken to end the practice of debt bondage labour and forced labour; and

(e) the steps being taken to rehabilitate the victims of forced labour and debt bondage labour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (e) There have been instances of debt bondage in some parts of the country. However, these numbers have been coming down during the past few years. Whereas in the year 1999-2000, 8195 bonded labourers were detected, in 2008-09 the number came down to 543.

The report of the International Labour Organisation released in May, 2009 under the heading 'The Cost of Coercion' mentions about existence of bonded labourers in India and other countries.

The Constitution of India under Article 23(1) prohibits "begar" and other similar forms of forced labour and it provides that any contravention of the said prohibition shall be an offence punishable in accordance with law. The bonded labour system was abolished by law throughout the country w.e.f. 25th October, 1975 under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Ordinance which was replaced by Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976. The responsibility of implementing the Act lies with the State Governments.

In order to assist the State Governments in the task of rehabilitation of identified and released bonded labourers, a Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme was introduced in May, 1978. Under the

Scheme, rehabilitation assistance is provided @ Rs. 20,000/- per bonded labour which is equally shared by the Central and State Governments. A Statement showing the number of bonded labourers identified, released, rehabilitated and Central assistance released to the States up to 31.03.2009 is enclosed (*See* below).

Under the directions of the Prime Minister's Office, a Special Group has been constituted under the Chairpersonship of Secretary (Labour & Employment) to review and monitor the implementation of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976. This Group has held 16 meetings so far in different regions.

Statement

Number of bonded labourers identified, released and rehabilitated under the Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme up to 31.3.2009

Name of the State	Number of Bonded Labourers		
	Identified and Released	Rehabilitated	Central assistance provided (Rs. in lakhs)
Andhra Pradesh	37988	31534	850.00
Arunachal Pradesh	3,526	2992	568.48
Bihar	14,351	13533	454.38
Chhattisgarh	124	124	12.40
Gujarat	64	64	1.01
Haryana	591	89	4.93
Jharkhand	196	196	19.60
Karnataka	63,437	57185	1578.18
Kerala	823	710	15.56
Madhya Pradesh	13,317	12,392	164.49
Maharashtra	1,404	1,325	15.52
Orissa	50,029	46901	903.34
Punjab	69	69	6.90
Rajasthan	7488	6331	72.42
Tamil Nadu	65,573	65,573	1661.94
Uttar Pradesh	28,846	28,846	633.30
Uttarakhand	5	5	0.50
West Bengal	267	267	20.41
TOTAL :	2,88,098*	2,68,136	6983.36

NOTE :

* 19962 Bonded Labourers are not available for rehabilitation either on account of their death or they have left the place without leaving their addresses.

* Rehabilitation grants equal to Rs. 6983.36 lakhs has also been provided by the State Governments as State's share for rehabilitation of bonded labour.

* In the case of Arunachal Pradesh 100% Central assistance amounting to Rs. 568.48 lakhs bas been provided by the Ministry of Labour and Employment. In the case of North Eastern regions and Sikkim, 100% Central grants (without matching States share) are provided for rehabilitation of bonded labour.